

A1 ~~87b~~  
9. (Amended) A modified human growth hormone receptor (hGHR) according to claim 6 [any of claim 6 to 8] consisting of residues 32-237, 32-234 or 34-233 of the native molecule.

✓ Claim 10, line 2 after "consisting" insert --of--.

11. (Amended) Crystals of a receptor protein according to claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 10 to any of claims 1-10] suitable for binding studies with ligand candidates.

A2  
12. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 11, wherein the contact surface between two molecules is between 200 [to] and 1800 Å<sup>2</sup> (square ångström) [and more preferably between 100 to 900 Å<sup>2</sup> (square ångström)].

↙ Claim 13, line 1, delete "or 12".

A3  
15. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 11 [any of claims 11 to 14] capable of being frozen with gaseous or liquid nitrogen with maintained capacity of diffraction to at least 3.5 Å by using synchrotron radiation source.

A4  
17. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 11 [any of claims 11 to 16] capable of being resistant to an addition of up to 10% (v/v) of DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide) and up to 5% (v/v) of DMF (dimethylfluoride) for at least 24 hours.

18. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 11 wherein [any of claims 11 to 17 characterized in that] they are formed at pH between 5.0 [to] and 8.5.

19. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 18 wherein [characterized in that] they are formed at pH between 7.0 and 8.0.

20. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 11 [any of claims 11 to 17] formed in the presence of one or more salts having a concentration between 0.15 M and 1.0 M.

21. (Amended) Crystals according to claim 20, wherein the salt is [salt(s) is(are)] selected from a group consisting of ammonium sulfate, lithium sulfate, sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, lithium chloride, ammonium acetate, sodium acetate, magnesium chloride, sodium formate and sodium citrate, and mixtures thereof.

24. (Amended) A method according to claim 22 [claims 22 or 23], wherein the crystals are soaked or cocrystallized with a solution comprising the ligands.

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 22 [claims 22 to 24], wherein the receptor is a modified growth hormone receptor investigated with ligands having potential growth hormone activity.

✓ Claim 26, line 2, delete "subsequent".

✓ Claim 28, line 1, delete "or 27".